

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding there are two additional requests for time. Do we have time left on the Democratic side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining on the Democratic side.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that there be an additional 10 minutes equally divided and that our 5 minutes go to the Senator from Delaware, Mr. CARPER, following the statement of the Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, I yield to my friend, the Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. I thank the Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

Mr. CARPER. Today is March 4. Five years ago today something called the American Legacy Foundation was created. Over the past 5 years, Legacy Foundation has helped us to make great strides in the improvement of health for all kinds of Americans, not only today but in the years to come. They have helped us to begin building a world where young people reject tobacco and where just about anyone can quit smoking. But as we celebrate the work of the foundation today, a lot more work needs to be done.

The foundation was established in March of 1999 as a result of something called the Master Settlement Agreement between a coalition of attorneys general in 46 States and 5 U.S. territories and the tobacco industry. The foundation remains primarily today funded by payments designated by the settlement.

The foundation develops national programs that address the health effects of tobacco use. They do it through grants, technical training and assistance, and youth activism, strategic partnerships, countermarketing and grassroots marketing campaigns, public relations, and community outreach to populations disproportionately affected by the toll of tobacco.

The foundation has two goals that guide its work toward creating tobacco-free generations. One of those is to arm all young people with the knowledge and tools to reject tobacco. The other is to eliminate the disparities in access to tobacco prevention and cessation services.

The truth campaign is one effort to curb tobacco use among teens. Truth is the foundation's comprehensive countermarketing campaign to prevent and reduce youth smoking. The truth campaign was credited by the National Institute on Drug Abuse as one of the major programs which contributed to the steady reduction in teen cigarette smoking.

In addition to celebrating this achievement today, I also want to share with my colleagues the very real threats faced by the American Legacy Foundation. This year the foundation received its last payment from the Master Settlement Agreement. Because of this drastic reduction in resources, all of the successes that have been achieved to date are suddenly jeopardized. I don't believe we can afford to lose any of the ground we have gained on tobacco control.

I ask my colleagues to consider these facts: Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in this country. Tobacco kills some 440,000 people per year—more than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined. Twenty-four percent of high school students in my State still smoke. That is down from where it was a couple years ago, but still almost one out of four. Every day some 2,000 teenagers begin smoking. Their average age is actually about 13. Of those who become hooked on smoking, one of three will end up dying from their use of tobacco.

Each year in my State of Delaware, some 1,100 adults die from cigarette smoking. I am told over 900 kids in my State have lost at least one parent through smoking-caused death. I would also say smoking is having a financial impact. Annual health care expenditures in my State caused by tobacco use total \$221 million and over \$62 million in State Medicaid payments are related to tobacco use.

I had the privilege of being the founding cochairman of the American Legacy Foundation. Our founding chairman was Chris Gregoire, the Attorney General of Washington State. I was succeeded and joined on the foundation board by former Governor Mike Leavitt of Utah, now head of EPA, and by Parris Glendinning, former Governor of Maryland. I am proud of the association I had with the foundation at its beginning and the great work we did, especially with young people who themselves helped to design, to craft, and to deliver the truth campaign. In no small part because of their efforts, especially the young people, the incidence of smoking has dropped significantly over the last half dozen years, and it is important that that work and that trend continue.

I thank the Chair for the time and I thank my colleague from Nevada and my colleague from Minnesota for allowing me to speak.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, are we still in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. COLEMAN. I would like to spend the little time remaining to talk about the economy. I was mayor of St. Paul,

MN, for 8 years, and I learned as mayor that the best welfare program is a job; the best housing program is a job. Access to health care quite often came through a job. I also learned nobody jumps on a sinking ship; that hope and confidence yield investment.

As we look at the data, look at what is happening in the economy, it is very clear the economy is moving forward. This Nation has come a long way from the terrible day of September 11 and the impact that had both on the infrastructure in New York and in Washington, but also on the psyche of the American public, the confidence.

Look at the scandals on Wall Street, the WorldComs and the Enrons. Undermining the trust and confidence in the American system, the way we do business, that has an impact. The reality is we have come so far. In the third quarter of last year we had the greatest GDP growth in nearly 2 decades. The fourth quarter exceeded expectations contributing to 6.1 percent annual growth rate in the last half of the year, the strongest 6 months gain since 1984. It is expected the 2004 economic growth will be between 4.6 and 4.8 percent.

We sound like statisticians here. I am not sure the average man or woman worried about their economic future and feeding their family understands the impact of that, but that is the fastest annual growth in this country since 1984.

When you try to turn around an economy that has suffered so much, when we try to do the things with the President's leadership—to cut taxes, put more money in the pockets of moms and dads, to allow business to increase expensing that, to generate bonus depreciation—it then results in more economic investment, which results in more jobs, more jobs.

Those are the things we have done, and the result is that the economy is moving forward. The statistics show that.

I understand that capital expenditures are on the rise. The Department of Commerce reported earlier this week that capital goods orders are rising and are 3.6 percent higher in January than in the final quarter of 2003. We have nearly 660,000 less unemployment claims than we had at our peak figure last summer and, I think, over 336,000 new jobs according to the payroll survey, the most narrow reading—and the household survey shows much more of an increase. If you do something out of your home, if you are individually employed, it doesn't count that. I learned from my 17-year-old that people do business out of eBay, and they are not listed in the payroll survey. But the household survey is significant.

Millions of jobs have been created in this country. So we are moving forward. In my State, the last report of the State budget showed very good news. The terrible deficits and gaps we were facing, the fiscal crisis, may be over. The National Conference of State Legislatures recently said that. So we